

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

**Help Protect Taxpayer Liability and Airline
Employees' Pension Benefits**

Sign Bipartisan Letter to Conferees Regarding Airline Pension Security

2/27/2006

Dear Colleague:

We seek your support for our bipartisan letter to encourage the House and Senate conferees to include the Senate language for airline funding rules in the pension reform conference report. The Senate's airline provision (Section 403 of S. 1783) gives carriers, their employees and retirees a critical and necessary tool toward the goal of securing their retirement benefits.


Last November, the U.S. Senate overwhelmingly approved pension reform legislation on a 97-2 vote. Included in this bill was an amendment adopted by voice vote offered by Senator Isakson (now Section 403) to provide additional time for airlines to meet their pension obligations.

We believe that the specific Senate airline funding provision enjoys broad bi-partisan support in the House. Now is the time for all Members to register their support for a comprehensive pension reform that takes the right steps to provide retirement security for airline employees with defined-benefit plan benefits.

We encourage your support for our letter, and we have attached a copy for your review. If you wish to sign the letter, please contact Greg Louer with Congressman Norwood (54101), Chip Gardiner with Congressman Oberstar (5-6211), or Ryan Berger with Congressman LaTourette (5-5731) before March 9th.

Sincerely,


Charlie Norwood
Member of Congress


Jim Oberstar
Member of Congress


Steven LaTourette
Member of Congress

Dear Conference Chairmen and Ranking Members:

As you work to craft the pension reform conference report, we want to emphasize that the final product must include the airline funding rule as reflected in the Senate version, S.1783.

In our view, pension reform legislation must include an identical airline funding rule to that which was adopted by the Senate as section 403 of S. 1783. We believe that the Senate language provides a critical tool for carriers in the financially-troubled airline industry to try to preserve their employees' pension plans.

The Senate provision enjoys strong support in both chambers, and we believe that inclusion of section 403 of the Senate bill in the pension reform conference report will help to ensure overwhelming bipartisan support for the report when it is brought before the House for final consideration.

Again, we look forward to working with you to complete work on this important legislation and appreciate your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,